

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1167 without my signature.

Last year, more than 40 percent of voters voted absentee. With the growth in absentee voting comes a responsibility on both government and voters to ensure that absentee ballots are returned to election officials and properly processed.

This bill would require election officials to notify absentee voters if a ballot will require more than one stamp to return in the mail. This is a common sense proposal that appropriately places shared responsibility on all parties.

Unfortunately, I cannot support the provision of this bill that requires local election officials to negotiate with the United States Postal Service to ensure all absentee ballots are delivered even if they have insufficient postage. While some election officials have held such negotiations in cases where voters may have been unaware that extra postage was required, this should remain an option, not a mandate, for local officials. Mandating election officials to negotiate with the USPS is unnecessary and fails to appropriately recognize the responsibility of absentee voters to use sufficient postage when returning their ballot.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger